

Southeast News

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Ministers' Convocation Enjoyed

Nearly 40 ministers and their spouses gathered at Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, AL for the 1978 Southeast Conference Ministers' Convocation held May 1-3.

A time for fellowship and relaxation, the Ministers' Convocation is also a setting for continuing education which was especially stimulating this year. Keynoting the Convocation was Dr. Douglas Knight, Assoc. Professor of Old Testament at Vanderbilt Divinity School, who delivered four lectures on the theme of "Liberation and Social Justice in Ancient Israel." Dr. Knight's lectures addressed a number of the issues introduced in *Human Sexuality: A Preliminary Study*.

Joining Dr. Knight was Mrs. Marilyn Breitling from the Office for Church Life and Leadership who addressed the convocation on issues dealing with the area of "women in church and society." Dr. James Lightbourne, Conference Minister of the Southern Conference was also present to discuss actions of the General Synod and the Executive Council.

Highlighting the Convocation were the annual graduation ceremonies of Old

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UCBWM Issues Financial Appeal

Church World Service, through the auspices of the United Church Board for World Ministries, has issued an emergency appeal for \$70,000 from US Churches to help in emergency relief for the 250,000 persons displaced by the recent fighting in Lebanon.

Virgually the whole population of South Lebanon, both Lebanese and Palestinians, were forced to flee their homes and take up shelter in tent cities created for the displaced population.

Emergency relief, in the form of blankets, kitchen utensils, sandals and food, was shipped immediately under the direction of Church World Service, the ecumenical disaster relief agency.

Due to massive destruction of property and homes, relief work will continue for a good many months in the future.

Contributions of any size are gratefully accepted. Please make payable to UCBWM and itemize "Lebanese Relief Fund" and forward to the Southeast Conference Office, P.O. Box 29883, Atlanta, GA 30359. Your response to the needs of the innocent victims of this war will be greatly appreciated.



DR. JOSEPH H. EVANS

Evans to Keynote Annual Meeting

The Reverend Dr. Joseph H. Evans, Secretary of the United Church of Christ will keynote the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference, to be held at Southern Union Jr. College Friday through Sunday, June 9-11, 1978.

A graduate of Western Michigan University and Yale Divinity School, Dr. Evans served in the local parish for 25 years before assuming his post as Secretary of the United Church in 1967. As Secretary, Dr. Evans is responsible for all official records of the General Synod and the Executive Council. He serves as Editor of the Year Book and maintains records for the 9400 ordained and commissioned workers and the 6600 local churches of the United Church of Christ.

A special feature of this year's Annual Meeting will be the participation of youth. Young people throughout the Conference who are in grades 7-12 are urged to attend. In addition to participation in Friday night Review Committees, youth will be full participants in the work of the Annual Meeting. The program of the Annual Meeting includes leadership from Dwight Kelly, Cullman, Kim Heaman, Huntsville, Linda Hankins, Atlanta and Randal Hand, Lanett.



Convocation leaders: [l-r] Dr. Douglas Knight, Ms. Marilyn Breitling, Dr. James Lightbourne



REV. DONALD SCOVILL

Oak Grove Pastor Ordained

Rev. Donald Scovill, Pastor of Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church, UCC, was ordained to the Christian ministry on April 9, 1978 by the East Alabama Association.

Rev. Scovill, who came to Oak Grove from Ohio had been active for some 12 years in the Ohio Conference Lay Ministry Fellowship, where he had served as chairman. Other church leadership experience has included membership in the Western Reserve Association, UCC and membership on the Committee on the Ministry of that Association in addition to various lay leadership positions in local churches in Ohio. Prior to ordination Mr. Scovill had served for 38 years as an Assistant Chief Inspector in an electric company in Cleveland, Ohio. He and his wife, Eleanor are the parents of three sons.

Participating in the service of ordination and the installation service were the Rev. Earren Blankenhorn, Associate Conference Minister and other officials of the East Alabama Association.

Rev. Scovill has provided leadership at Oak Grove since August of 1977.

Bebe Accepts Worship Appointment

Dr. David Beebe, pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC in Chattanooga and Moderator of the Southeast Conference, has been appointed by the Office for Church Life and Leadership to a newly formed Committee on Contemporary Worship Forms which will follow directives given by the 11th General Synod. The Committee will hold its first meeting in August.

Parish Wider Than You Think

Bert Keller, Pastor of Circular Church in Charleston, S.C., writes: This week I ran into some old friends who are co-pastors of a tiny mission church in Norfolk. The church is located next to a housing project with some 5000 people crowded in. The mission church hopes to start a health clinic in the neighborhood in order to minister effectively to the pressing health needs of the people. While their church has only 50 members, my friends have a "parish" of 500 members — lives they are bound up with by bonds of concern and sharing of life.

What a size our Circular Church "parish" must be! Each one of us members has a circle of friends, fellow employees, students, patients, or other people whose lives are mingled with ours. We minister to these people at times in unique ways, in support and friendship they minister to us. Most of these people never walk through the door of Circular Church, but they are our parish. Those lives are upheld by us in love and concern and we are upheld by them. They are part of "us."

One hundred people may gather for worship on Sunday morning. My guess is that well over 5000 are being touched and upheld in those 100 circles of caring and ministry. That whole network of blessing is our parish.

What a large church we are!

Morgan-Scott Needs

The Morgan-Scott Project, an interdenominational ministry in Morgan and Scott Counties, TN, is continually in need of the assistance that churches in the Southeast Conference can provide. Here is a check list of needs. Perhaps your church can help. Wanted:

- For Community Centers: good used table games (i.e. monopoly, etc.) and contributions for movie projector (all but \$300 raised).

- For Plateau Home School: Campbell's soup labels.

- For Mission: Household items for families burned out (all the way from kitchen items to mattresses and beds).

- For Education: A specialist in learning disabilities to come and train a local person.

- For Habitat for Humanity: Tools to help outfit two building crews.

Would you like to help? Write to Rev. Randy Gehres for further information. c/o Rev. Randy Gehres, Lansing, IN 37770.



DR. JOSEPH N. GAYLES, JR.

Talladega Inaugurates New President

In November of 1977 Talladega College, Talladega, AL inaugurated its 10th President, Dr. Joseph N. Gayles, Jr. Historically related to the United Church of Christ through the American Missionary Association, Talladega is one of six colleges which are recipients of the 17/76 Achievement Fund Campaign.

Born in Birmingham, AL, Dr. Gayles graduated from Dillard University in New Orleans and received his Ph.D in chemical physics from Brown University in 1963. In addition to many other awards, Dr. Gayles was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow from 1958-59. Having published and delivered some 25 professional papers, Dr. Gayles has been the project director for some 19 grants for research and instruction and has consulted and been appointed to some 12 different special projects.

Dr. Gayles brings to Talladega a great deal of experience and specialization. The father of two children, Dr. Gayles and his wife Gloria reside in Talladega.

Gray Interim President

The Rev. Dr. Arthur Gray is presently serving as Interim President of the Massachusetts Conference, UCC. Dr. was the first black president of Talladega College which he served from 1952-1962. In 1969 Dr. Gray also became the first black person to be nominated for president of the denomination. He retired last year as minister of the Congregational Church of Park Manor, Chicago, Ill.

The Family Checkup

The Family Life Committee of the Jefferson County Mental Health Association, of which Rev. Henry Tuttle, pastor of Pilgrim UCC in Birmingham, is a member, has prepared a checklist to be available to all churches in the Birmingham area. Many times, parents get bogged down in the continuous demands of children, home, jobs; they neglect the activities and attitudes must be developed through a conscious effort. These basic checkup questions are written to remind parents to pay attention and give priority to the development of a strong family:

1. Our family eats at least one meal a day together.
2. Our family openly expresses love for one another.
3. Our family freely discusses decisions that involve the whole group, such as a vacation or a move.
4. Our family has engaged in some act ministry together during the last month.
5. At least three nights a week, our family spends time together.
6. Our family expresses thanks to God before mealtimes.
7. I can tell any member of my family when I feel angry or put down.
8. This week I have told each member of my family something I appreciate

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LIBERTY CHURCH

—AROUND THE CONFERENCE—

Liberty Church Revitalized

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Kentucky, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing the southern rim of the Conference is Liberty Church, UCC near Brantley, Alabama. As part of the South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association,

Liberty Church was founded in 1887, but in recent years the 19th century church building had deteriorated as church functions had become more and more infrequent.

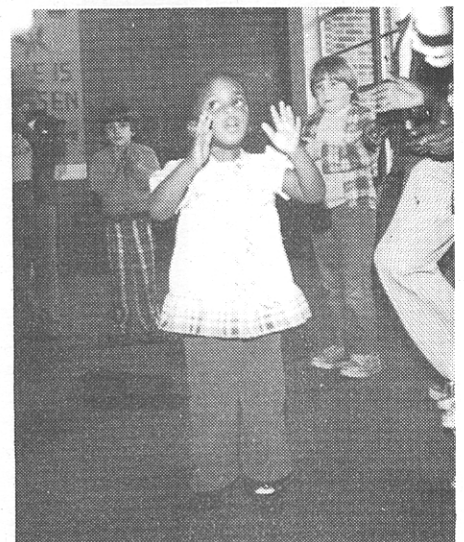
All of this was to change with the arrival two years ago of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Foreman. Recently retired from the U.S. Air Force, the Formans returned to Brantley, the childhood home of Mrs. Foreman. As active lay workers for many years, the Foremans saw the need for a viable church since many people in the community were still members of Liberty Church and not attending elsewhere.

Through the leadership of the Foremans', and with the cooperation of the members and the community, a beautiful brick church was built, furnished, paid for and dedicated and stands where the old 19th century frame building had stood. Mr. Foreman has been licensed by the South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association and is now the Rev. Dale Foreman.

Nashville Churches Work Together

The three United Churches in Nashville — Howard, First E&R and Brookmeade — have been working on cooperative efforts for the past year. One of the most delightful of these ventures was a joint Easter Egg Hunt held on the Saturday prior to Easter. Some 25 youngsters from all three churches participated and enjoyed an afternoon of egg hunting, games and refreshments.

One of many events planned by the Nashville ICCOCP (Inter-Church Committee On Cooperative Programming), other joint ventures include Maundy Thursday Services, joint participation in basketball and softball leagues and Nature Sunday Worship in which the congregants of all three churches gather for worship in a community park on a Sunday in June which is followed by a picnic lunch and an afternoon of recreation. Other events planned for this year include a tour of prison facilities located in Nashville and a joint educational project for the inmates of the Men's Prison.



Games were enjoyed by Nashville youngsters

Youth Mini-Camp

Some 40 young people and adult advisors enjoyed a Mini-Camp held at Camp Dogwood in Soddy, TN May 5-7 and sponsored by the Ala-Tenn Association. The last of four Association-wide youth events for this program year, this Mini-Camp was distinctive both in terms of its program and its leadership.

Focusing on our Christian understanding of human "feelings," the program was led by four Association young people all of whom were participants in the Southeast Conference Youth Core leadership training. Providing the leadership for the Mini-Camp were: Jon Ingle, Chattanooga, Flavia Burton, Roxanne George and Scott Bonnell, Nashville. Ms. Trudi Sanford, who was instrumental in the Youth Core training sessions, was present on Saturday.

Conference Minister W.J. Andes was a special visitor to the camp as were Evelyn and Assoc. Conference Minister, Warren Blankenhorn.

If You're Asked

Hundreds of persons all across the country have recently received letters from a Mr. Robert F. Simango of Inyazura, Rhodesia. Apparently Mr. Simango has access to a U.C.C. Yearbook.

Dr. Chester Marcus, Africa Secretary of Our United Church Board for World Ministries, has been in touch with Mr. Simango and with the United Church of Christ of Rhodesia, urging that his requests for clothes and for money be channeled through that church body, which is related to our UCBWM.

You should know that the UCBWM makes grants to church bodies, not to individuals. Know further that special permits and licenses are necessary at the present time to send things of commercial value or money to Rhodesia, permits and licenses which the UCBWM has obtained from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Convocation. . .

[Continued from Page 1]

Thermometer U. Recipients of extinguished first, second and third degrees this year were: Rev. Henry Tuttle — Dr. of Inflated Piscatorial Eisegesis, Mrs. Marilyn Breitling — Dr. of Tactile OCCLtism, and Dr. James Lightbourne — Dr. of Encyclical Casuistry. Degrees were presented this year by Dr. Angus McAndrews, Visiting Professor of Divinity from the University of Haggis in Scotland.



Some of the Roanoke Cluster ministers: [l-r] Bernard Fuller, Roger Loosier, Joe French [back row] Olin Sheppard, Roy Walker, E. G. Clark, Dr. A. R. Van Cleave.

Roanoke Cluster Formed

The largest group of churches in close proximity to one another in the Southeast Conference are the Roanoke, Wadley, Wedowee churches. On March 15, ten of the eleven ministers serving fourteen churches of this area met to form the Roanoke Cluster. The organizing meeting was held at the Tara Restaurant in Roanoke. Future meetings are being scheduled.

Ga.-S. C. Mission Seminar Slated

A Mission Seminar for the Georgia-South Carolina Association will be held at Bonanza United Church of Christ, Jonesboro, GA, on September 23 and 24, 1978. Special invitations and further details concerning the seminar will be mailed to GA-S.C. churches later in the summer.

Leadership for the Seminar includes Theodore H. Erickson, Board of Homeland Ministries; David Langerhans, Stewardship Council; Myles H. Walburn, Board for World Ministries; representatives from the Office for Church Life & Leadership and Southeast Conference Staff.

A similar Mission Seminar will be planned for the Ala-Tenn Association for sometimes in 1979.

EASTER REFLECTIONS

There was much to be thankful for on this beautiful Easter Day as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord! Rev. Elmer Carnes is very busy visiting and filling the pulpit. We see the results of the visiting program in our church. We have services twice each Sunday, a Wednesday night prayer meeting and a Ladies' Fellowship meeting once a month.

We joined with other churches during Easter — with the Nazarene Church in an egg hunt for the children and with the Mt. Zion Church for our Easter sunrise service.

—Bernice Carter

Antioch Congregational Church

Galts Appointed

Rev. Ralph Galt and his wife, Louise, were the recent recipients of a three year appointment to Taiwan by the United Church Board for World Ministries. The Galts presently reside in Birmingham, Alabama.

Checkup. . .

[from Page 3]

about him or her.

9. My children understand the discipline and guidelines we have established.

10. I try to be aware of the needs of others in my family.

The check points printed here don't only apply to families with children; grown-ups need attention too!